

Wesley has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Wesley has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Wesley has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Wesley scraped, painted and replaced the floor molding in the front entryway and men's bathroom for St. Rita's school at St. Munchin in Cameron, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Wesley Henry Scherler McDowell for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MRS. PAT  
STELLA

**HON. LOU BARLETTA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2011*

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Pat Stella, a recipient of the 2011 Volunteers of America Pennsylvania's Spirit of Youth award.

The Spirit of Youth award is given to those who instill hope and belief in the advancement of all. Their support of the community and of Volunteers of America ranges from helping children to helping those who are young at heart. Pat has dedicated herself to doing just that through her business and volunteer efforts.

Pat Stella is the owner and operator of 11 McDonald's restaurants throughout Luzerne, Carbon, Lackawanna, and Wayne counties in Pennsylvania. Growing up in Chicago, Pat's mother started working as a secretary in the McDonald's corporate office. Her family moved to Pennsylvania after selling everything they had to buy a McDonald's franchise. Pat, a former elementary school teacher, began working for McDonald's when her family opened a second restaurant more than 30 years ago. She became the owner-operator of the enterprise in 1980.

Pat's work ethic and service has been recognized in many ways. In 2003, Pat received the McDonald's Street Fighter Award for her superior marketing and business sales. She has also received the Women Operators' Network 2003 Shining Star Award. Most notably, Pat earned the highest award a McDonald's owner can receive, the Golden Arch Award.

Pat not only dedicates herself to her work, but she also dedicates herself to her husband and three children, and to her community. In addition to working with Volunteers of America, Pat serves on the boards of the Pittston Chamber of Commerce and Scranton's Ronald McDonald House. She is a past member of McDonald's National Operators Advisory Board and its Steering Committee, and she has served as the co-chair of the Philadelphia McDonald's Owner/Operator Association.

Mr. Speaker, Pat Stella's work ethic is not the only trait to make her stand out in our community. Pat's service to our area has touched many lives. Mr. Speaker, today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mrs. Pat Stella, a recipient of this year's Vol-

unteers of America Pennsylvania's Spirit of Youth award.

GOD'S CHILD PROJECT 20TH  
ANNIVERSARY

**HON. RICK BERG**

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2011*

Mr. BERG. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to recognize the 20th anniversary of the God's Child Project, a North Dakota-based program to combat international human trafficking.

Human trafficking is among the largest criminal industries in the world, second only to the illegal drug trade.

It is also the fastest growing, with an estimated 12 million people enslaved worldwide—including many in the United States.

God's Child Project has been providing education, medical care, and other critical aid to children and families around the world since 1991.

For the past 10 years, this non-profit has worked with an affiliate in Guatemala to combat international human trafficking and exploitation.

This month, as the program celebrates its 20th anniversary, I want to commend the good and selfless work being done through God's Child Project.

I am proud that this program has given so much to help the victims of human trafficking, and I'm happy that the program is able to call North Dakota home.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF MATTHEW SLOCUM ON HIS OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY

**HON. ROBERT E. LATTA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2011*

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Matthew Slocum of Perrysburg, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, New York.

Matthew brings an enormous amount of leadership, service and dedication to the incoming Class of 2015. While attending Perrysburg High School in Perrysburg, Ohio, Matthew consistently achieved honor roll. Matthew involved himself in a number of athletic activities, including football and baseball, in which he earned varsity letters. He also served as a volunteer at youth football and baseball camps.

On top of this, he excelled academically and served his church on its Youth Leadership Committee.

I am confident that Matthew will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Matthew Slocum on the ac-

ceptance of his appointment to the United States Merchant Marine Academy where he will gain a world-class education and invaluable leadership experience. I am positive that Matthew will excel during his career at the United States Merchant Marine Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to the nation.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF AMERICAS HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL TEAM

**HON. SILVESTRE REYES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2011*

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of the Americas High School Mock Trial team from my congressional district in El Paso, Texas. On March 5, 2011, at the Texas High School Mock Trial Competition, the Americas High School Mock Trial team became the first team from El Paso in the competition's 32-year history to win the Texas state title. This is a remarkable achievement that I am proud to recognize.

Mock Trial offers students across the nation the opportunity to develop critical thinking and public speaking skills, as well as knowledge of legal practices and procedures, in a real courtroom setting. Teams devote long hours to work on case theories and examinations to prepare for competition.

Undeclared in the regional competition for three years in a row, the Americas High School Mock Trial team's dedication secured their victory as they defeated the defending state champions. The team members include Enrique Esparza, Edwin Felix, Zach Fields, Joshua Monarez, Nayell Palomino, Jacob Parson, Texas Quezada, Chris Ramos, Savannah Rappe, and Anabella Tarango. In addition to the team victory, Zach Fields was awarded the Outstanding Advocate Award at the competition in a unanimous decision by the judges.

The Americas High School Mock Trial team is coached by Mr. Robert Almonte II, Assistant City Attorney for the City of El Paso, and Mr. Jaime Esparza, the District Attorney for the 34th Judicial District of Texas. The team's teacher sponsor, Teresa Candelaria, has served as their sponsor for seven seasons since 2004. I commend these three outstanding professionals for their dedication to the educational development of El Paso students.

Americas High School, located in east El Paso, is one of seven high schools in the Socorro Independent School District. The school opened in September 1996, serving a predominantly Hispanic student population.

In early May, the Americas High School Mock Trial team will travel to Phoenix, Arizona, to represent the State of Texas at the National High School Mock Trial Championship. I am pleased to honor this team for their impressive accomplishments, and wish all team members the very best in their future endeavors.